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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ED MUEGGE,

CASINI Civil Rights 0332

Plaintiffs,

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DOUBLETREE ROHNERT PARK, also doing business as "Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country"; RLH PARTNERSHIP, L.P.; RED LION G.P., INC.; HLT OPERATE DTWC CORP.; HLT OPERATE DTWC, LLC; DOUBLETREE DTWC CORPORATION; DOUBLETREE DTWC, LLC; DOUBLETREE, LLC; HILTON HOTELS CORPORATION; and DOES 1 through 50, Inclusive,

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND DAMAGES: DENIAL OF CIVIL RIGHTS OF A DISABLED PERSON IN VIOLATION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, AND IN VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S DISABLED RIGHTS STATUTES

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

[Proper Intradistrict Assignment: Western/Los Angeles]

Defendants.

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Plaintiff ED MUEGGE, on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated disabled persons, hereby complains of Defendants DOUBLETREE ROHNERT PARK, a business entity, form unknown, also doing business in California as "Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country", served under California Code of Civil Procedure \$369.5; RLH PARTNERSHIP, L.P., a Delaware Limited Partnership doing business in California, and aka "RLH

Complaint for Injunctive Relief and Damages

Partnership"; RED LION G.P., INC., a Delaware Corporation, as a general partner of RLH Partnership, L.P.; HLT OPERATE DTWC CORP., a Delaware Corporation doing business in California which has surrendered its California corporate registration, which, on information and belief, is aka "HLT Operate DTWC, LLC", and which has surrendered its corporate registration in California; HLT OPERATE DTWC, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Corporation doing business in California, which, on information and belief is aka "HLT Operate DTWC Corp."; DOUBLETREE DTWC CORPORATION, а Delaware Corporation doing business California, and which has surrendered its corporate registration in California, and on information and belief is currently doing business as "Doubletree DTWC, LLC"; DOUBLETREE DTWC, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Corporation doing business California, which, on information and belief is aka "Doubletree DTWC Corporation", and which has surrendered its corporate registration in California; DOUBLETREE, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company doing business in California; HILTON HOTELS CORPORATION, a North Carolina Corporation doing business in California; and DOES 1 through 50, Inclusive (hereafter "Defendants"), and demands a trial by jury, and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

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1. Defendants own, operate and/or lease the subject Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, a hotel with approximately 245 rooms (which include suites) located at One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, California.

- 2. Plaintiff ED MUEGGE is a person with disabilities and requires the use of a wheelchair or scooter for mobility, and has certain, short-term semi-ambulatory abilities. He also has certain physical limitations that relate to his ability to grasp issues.
- 3. A former long-time resident of Sonoma County, he returns to the Santa Rosa area often to visit family and friends. The Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country is convenient to his transportation-route from the airport and its local drop off. Within the two year period preceding the filing of this Complaint, he has stayed multiple times at this hotel as a paying guest, and also has been deterred from returning for his lodging needs. As of this filing, he would like to stay at the hotel during his next planned trip.
- This is a suit to require Defendants to remediate the hotel so that it fully accessible and usable by persons with disabilities such as Plaintiff. Defendants maintain barriers along the accessible route from the boundary of the site, their normal paths of travel, their exterior and interior paths of travel, their parking, their lobby, their concierge desk, their public restrooms, their pool, their restaurant and patio, their bar, their café, their business center, their fitness center, their gardens, their guestrooms and suites, and, on information and belief, many of their other amenities and facilities. These barriers make the hotel inaccessible to physically disabled persons who use wheelchairs or crutches, including Plaintiff. Most humiliatingly, the designated disabled accessible guestrooms themselves, which do not offer equal privileges, are

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inadequate in number, have substantial barriers, and are not spread across the full range of accommodations offered by the hotel.

5. The hotel was built during the statutory period under California's accessibility statutes, and construction alterations and remodeling carried out at this facility, each of which triggered further access requirements under California law, as well as (for work occurring post January 26, 1992) under the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. As described herein below, Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief to require that the subject Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country which he visited and was unable to enter and use on a full and equal basis, be made accessible to disabled persons to meet the requirements of both California law and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. Plaintiff also seeks deterrence damages for violation of his Civil Rights for each date of specific deterrence until such date as Defendants bring their public facilities into full compliance with the requirements of California and federal law.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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6. This Court has diversity jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Section 28 USC 1332. Plaintiff is a citizen of Hawaii, and the defendant owner-operators-lessors of the Subject Property in Santa Rosa are citizens of various states, including California. Pursuant to pendant jurisdiction, attendant and related causes of action, arising from the same facts, are also brought under California law, including but not

limited to violations of California Health & Safety Code Sections 19955 et seq., including Section 19959; Title 24 California Code of Regulations; and California Civil Code Sections 54 and 54.1 et seq. Further, Plaintiff claims injury and discrimination by past and ongoing policies related to the reservation and compliance for disabled accessible guestrooms.

- 7. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391(b) and is founded on the fact that the real property which is the subject of this action is located in this district and that Plaintiff's causes of action arose in this district.
- 8. Intradistrict Jurisdiction. Under Local Rules, this case should be assigned to the Intradistrict for Oakland/San Francisco as the real property that is the subject of this action is located in such intradistrict, and Plaintiff's causes of action arose there (a property located in Sonoma County).

PARTIES

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9. Plaintiff qualifies as "a person with disability," because of his required use of a wheelchair or scooter, and because of his short-term semi-ambulatory Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the abilities. Defendants herein, including Does 1-50. is the constructive owner, beneficial owner, successor-owner successor-in-interest, association, purchaser, trust, trustee, agent, ostensible agent, alter ego, master, servant, employer, employee, representative, franchiser, franchisee,

venturer, partner, associate, parent company, subsidiary, department, representative, or such similar capacity (hereafter collectively referred to as "such capacities"), of each of the other Defendants, and was at all times acting and performing, or failing to act or perform, within the course and scope of his, her, their or its authority under such capacities, and with the authorization, consent, permission or ratification of each of the other Defendants, and is responsible in some manner for the acts and omissions of the other Defendants in proximately causing the violations and damages complained of herein, and have approved or ratified each of the acts or omissions of each other defendant, as herein described. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend when the true names, capacities, connections, responsibilities of each defendant and Does 1-50, are ascertained.

- 10. Plaintiff alleges on information and belief that at all relevant times, Defendants either were and/or now are the owners, operators, lessors and/or lessees of the public accommodation, also know as the Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, located at or near One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, California.
- 11. The facilities of this business, including its parking, entrances, grounds, pools, restaurants, bars, guestrooms, and other public facilities and amenities (as listed in paragraph 4) are each a "public accommodation or facility" subject to the requirements of California Health & Safety Code Sections 19955 et seq. and of the California Civil Code Sections 54, 54.1, and 54.3. At all times relevant to this

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complaint, Defendants have held these facilities open to public use. Such facilities also constitute "public accommodations" or "commercial facilities" subject to the requirements of Sections 302 and 303 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

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FACTUAL STATEMENT

- Defendants are required by law to provide accessible facilities on each occasion that "alterations, structural repairs or additions" were performed facilities pursuant to legal standards then in effect, Section 19959 of the Health & Safety Code, and under Section 303 of the Americans With Disabilities Act (which governs "new construction" and "alterations").
- 13. On information and belief, each such facility since July 1, 1970, been newly constructed, undergone "alterations, structural repairs, and additions," each of which has subjected the Defendants and the subject hotel's public facilities to disabled access requirements Section 19959 Health & Safety Code, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and/or, for such work occurring since January 26, 1992, to the requirements of Section 303 of the Americans With Disabilities Act.
- 14. Plaintiff alleges he has been denied access, or have suffered deterrence, by barriers at the subject hotel (as further described below), which include, but are not limited to:
- a) Generally, the hotel fails to provide signage specifying the location of its accessible routes and accessible amenities, which is required by code. Thus the

hotel fails to notify wheelchair users such as Plaintiff of the accessible route, which causes delay and searching, and other diminishes Plaintiff's physical and mechanical endurance.

- b) There is no accessible route from the various boundaries of the site the building's various main entrances. This makes it difficult to impossible for Plaintiff to safely enter and exit the site.
- c) The hotel has too few designated disabled accessible and designated disabled van accessible parking spaces in each of its distinct parking lots serving the various sides of the building and their amenities. This restricts the parking opportunities and availability of accessing these entrances.
- d) The hotel lacks a demarcated and compliant disabled accessible passenger unloading zone at its Porte Cochere, which is a safety feature necessary to protect individuals who use wheelchairs and other mobility assistive devices.
- e) There is a raised patio in front of the hotel formed of large flagstones, and which is apparently provided as a photo opportunity for guests. This facility lacks an accessible route from the main entrance, lacks a curb ramp where the normal path of travel crosses the curb line, and has a non-compliant and irregular surfaces with sudden vertical changes in rise and hazardous gaps between the stones. Thus, this area cannot be accessed at all by Plaintiff.

- g) The lobby's registration desk fails to provide a lower registration area along its main length, providing only a hidden, unsigned and segregated lowered counter in a back and obstructed area, and without knee space, discriminating against wheelchair users in this manner.
- h) The various couch groups in the lobby, restaurant, bar, salon lobby, etc., which are provided for intimate and business gatherings, each fail to provide an accessible route and the required clear floor space. This diminishes Plaintiff's ability to effectively use and participate in these areas.
- i) The hotel has various stairways, none of which have the proper contrasting stripes at the nosings of the stairs, none of which are served by compliant handrails with the appropriate grippable cross-section, or the proper extension at the bottom of the stairs, and, one of which, has open risers, which are tripping hazard.
- j) The are various fire places in the lobby and in the Bacchus Restaurant that are not served by an

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accessible route, nor by a compliant clear ground floor space. This makes it difficult to impossible for Plaintiff to approach and use this facility.

- k) The bar on the raised platform in the Lobby has a lowered counter whose usable and unobstructed length is less than the 36 inches minimum required by code, and which does not provide an unobstructed view of the television, meaning this facility is not readily accessible to, and usable by wheelchair users as provided by code, and that it does not provide full and equal access.
- 1) There are no compliant lowered tables in the bar area, meaning Plaintiff has been excluded from these facilities.
- m) The bar is served by an exterior patio that has doors whose push pressure to operate is in excess of 5 lbs., and containing tables that do not provide the required knee space underneath the table.
- n) The ramp located at the south end of the lobby, which is between the check in desk and the elevators to the rooms, has slopes in excess of 8.33%, has handrails that do not extend properly below the ramp run, and which have a cross-section that does not provide the grippable surface required by code. On information and belief, the ramp has a non-compliant pad underneath its carpeted surface. The cumulative effect of these barriers is that the ramp is difficult for Plaintiff to use, and diminishes his physical and mechanical endurance.
 - o) The carpeting center in the business area

has a padding underneath that does not provide the firm surface required by code, primarily because it is not firmly attached in areas. This condition can reduce Plaintiff's physical and mechanical endurance.

- p) The men's public restrooms in the registration lobby and in the salon lobby share multiple common barriers, including, but not limited to:
- i. The signage on the door does not provide compliant ADA and Title 24 signage, thus failing to provide assurance to Plaintiff and other users of mobility devices that all code requirements have been met.
- ii. The push pressure required to open the doors 5 lbs. maximum permitted, making it difficult for a wheelchair user to operate.

iii. There are three sinks in the main restroom, all of which are pedestal type sinks, which do not provide the required knee space underneath the fixture, with the soap dispenser and paper towels set on a ledge behind the sink, which exceeds the 40 inch maximum height, and the distance from the face of the sinks and soap dispenser and papers towels exceeds the 35 inch maximum permitted by code. Each of these barriers limit and/or prevent access to these facilities by wheelchair users.

iv. The height above the finished floor of the bottom reflective edge of the mirrors over the sinks exceed the 40 inch maximum height permitted by code. This makes it difficult to impossible for the wheelchair user to use this facility for grooming next to the sink.

v. The urinals are in an alcove that has a width that is below the minimum required by code, making it difficult for the wheelchair user to access this feature.

vi. The door swing of the accessible stall swings over the required landing in front of the urinal, which is a violation for both the urinal and accessible stall,

7 thus making it difficult for the wheelchair user to access 8 these facilities when either landing is obstructed by a user

or an open door swing.

vii. The urinal has a height that is higher than the 17 inch maximum permitted by code, impairing its user by wheelchair users.

viii. The urinals are not set 15 inches on center, exactly, as required, making it difficult to center on this fixture by wheelchair users.

ix. The door landings for the accessible stalls have a strike edge clearance that is below the 18 inches required, making it difficult to impossible for wheelchair users to operate.

x. The in-stall sink does not provide the required clear floor space underneath the fixture, and has a p-trap that protrudes more than 6 inches from the face of the wall. Theses conditions inhibit wheelchair access under the sink.

xi. The toilet is not set 18 inches on center, exactly, as is required by the code to create a predictable and regular environment for the disabled while they are at their most vulnerable; this condition thereby

diminishes wheelchair users leverage and ability to transfer.

that is reduced below the 1 ½ inch exactly dimension that is required by code because the recessed sanitary seat cover dispenser protrudes beyond the face of the wall. This condition limits graspability and leverage points for using the grab bar safely.

xiii. The sanitary seat cover dispenser is not mounted adjacent to the 30 X 48 inch rectangular clear floor space, making it difficult to impossible for wheelchair users to reach.

xiv. On information and belief, the side grab bar does not project a minimum of 24 inches beyond the face of the toilet. This limits the usable length of the grab bar.

xv. The bottom edge of the reflective surface of the mirror above the sink in the designated stall is mounted at a height that exceeds the 40 inch maximum permitted by the code, making it difficult to impossible to use the mirror from a seated position.

- q) The breakfast buffet in the Bacchus Restaurant has a height that exceeds the 34 inch maximum height for a reach across an obstruction. These conditions make it difficult to impossible for wheelchair users to reach and use the items on the breakfast bar.
- r) The highest merchandise on the breakfast buffet table is set at a height higher than the 54 inch maximum height permitted by code, limiting use as stated in

the previous item.

- s) The bar in the Bacchus Restaurant is set at a height of approximately 42 inches above the finished floor, and this bar does not provide the lower section that is required by code, making it impossible for seated wheelchair use.
- t) The serving bar along the face of the open kitchen is set a height of approximately 42 inches above the finished floor, which exceeds the 34 inch maximum height for a reach across an obstruction. This reduces the ability of the wheelchair user to reach items for self-service off of the counter.
- u) The tables in the main dining area do not provide the required knee space underneath the table, making it difficult to impossible to use the tables surface.
- v) The tables serving the bar area do not provide the knee space required under the table, making it difficult to impossible for wheelchair users to use the table's surface.
- w) The tables in the dining room with the large fire place do not provide the required knee space underneath the tables and the path of travel to the fire place itself is below the minimum 36 inch width required by code. The latter barrier makes the path to the fireplace difficult to impassible by wheelchair users.
- x) The exterior dining patio for the Bacchus Restaurant is reached through an exterior door that requires a push pressure exceeding the 5 lbs. maximum permitted by code,

making it difficult for wheelchair users to operate.

- y) The door landing on the exterior side of the aforementioned door is not level as required by code, making it difficult for Plaintiff and other wheelchair users to open and go through this entrance.
- z) The path of travel into the patio is along a narrow walkway that is less than the 48 inch minimum width permitted by code. This path of travel goes through a hedge positioned on either side of the walkway that is greater than 24 inches in length and less than 32 inches in width. The surface of the patio itself is flagstones, which have vertical rises and gaps that exceed the maximums permitted by code. These barriers limit wheelchair access onto and across the patio.
- aa) The junction between the beginning of the flagstone walkway and the concrete along the walkway from the restaurant has a vertical rise that exceeds the maximum permitted by code, inhibiting wheelchair access to this area. This barrier inhibits wheelchair access across the vertical rise, and limits physical and mechanical endurance.
- bb) The tables on the patio do not provide the knee space under the table required by code, making it difficult to impossible for wheelchair users to easily and properly use the table's surface.
- cc) The path of travel between the restaurant and the conference room/salons has a unprotected stairway that overhangs the circulation space, and the height of the bottom edge of the stairway is set below the 80 inch maximum height

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permitted by code along a pedestrian circulation space. subparagraph is not related to Plaintiff's disabilities, and is advisory.)

dd) The salons have numerous audio visual controls within them that are enclosed in a box with an openable door. These audio visual control boxes do not have a lock, and highest operable mechanism is set above the 54 inch maximum height permitted by code. This barrier makes difficult to impossible for wheelchair users to reach and use the amenity.

The typical salon door has a push pressure that exceeds the 5 lbs. maximum permitted by code, making it difficult for wheelchair users to operate.

The carpeting within the salons themselves ff) and in the corridor underneath has pads underneath, which does not provide a firm surface as required by code, making it difficult for wheelchair users to cross, and limiting their physical and mechanical endurance.

The salon near the business center and at gg) the south side of the building has a slope on its interior landing that is not level as require by code, making it difficult for wheelchair user to open and go through the door.

hh) There is a ramp on the interior of the aforementioned salon that has improper handrails that do not meet the graspability requirements of the code, and which do not extend sufficiently beyond the top and bottom ramp segment, and the ramp's slope will require a formal inspection to verify whether it complies. These barriers limit and hinder wheelchair access.

ii) The exterior door of the salon does not have a level landing on the exterior side, and has a push pressure that exceeds the 5 lbs. maximum permitted by code, which both makes it difficult for a wheelchair user to open and go through the door.

jj) All of the stairs between the second floor and the lobby do not have contrasting stripe on the leading edge of the top and bottom riser in each stair run, making it difficult for Plaintiff to achieve the earliest possible warning when encountering a sudden drop off or change in rise.

kk) The handrails on the aforementioned stairways do not meet the graspability requirements specified by code for handrails on a stairway, making it difficult for semi-ambulatory use.

11) The house-phone by the elevator and the ATM machine at the Southeast corner of the lobby is set above the 54 inch maximum height permitted by the code and lacks a clear floor space required by the code, making it difficult for the wheelchair user to get to and reach this device.

mm) The ATM machine at the southeast corner of the lobby and across from the elevator has a highest operable mechanism that exceeds the 54 inch maximum permitted by code, making this device difficult to impossible for the wheelchair user to utilize.

nn) The typical ice machine room has a path of travel along the face of the machines that is far below the 36 inch minimum width specified by code, and in one of the ice

machine rooms on the second floor does have a compliant path along the face of the machines, does not have required turn-around space, which would allow the wheelchair user to turn around and get out of the room. Also, within the first floor ice machine room at northwest corner of the building, there is a washing machine and dryer. All of these deficiencies reduce the wheelchair users ability to get to, and utilize, these machines.

There is soap dispenser in the landing of 00) ice machine/washing machine room first floor obstructs the use of this landing, and thus reduces the accessible route into the room. The height of the operable mechanism for the washer dryer combination exceeds the 54 inch There is no clear floor. maximum height permitted by code. ground space next to the soap dispenser. All of these deficiencies means these facilities are not accessible to, nor usable by, persons using wheelchairs, who cannot reach or access the necessary clearances to use the machines.

pp) There is an exit door from the raised bar area in the lobby that goes along the north side of the swimming pool area. The upper lobby door requires a push pressure the exceeds the 5 lbs. maximum permitted by code, and which has a landing on the exterior side that is not level as required. These barriers make it difficult for a wheelchair user to utilize.

qq) The length of the landing at the top of the ramp does not meet the length requirements specified by the code for a door landing at the top of a ramp segment,

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making it difficult for the wheelchair user to go up the ramp and get to the door safely.

rr) The aforementioned ramp has slopes and excessive warping within it that exceed the 8.33% maximum permitted by code, making it difficult for a wheelchair user to use the ramp, and thereby limits his physical and mechanical endurance.

ss) The handrails on this ramp do not provide the graspable surface that is required by the code, and do not extend beyond the top and bottom of the ramp run as required, making it difficult for a wheelchair user to use the handrails to go up or down the ramp.

tt) On information and belief, the length of the ramp run exceeds the 30 inch maximum permitted by code, which denies the required landing every 30 feet for resting, physical and mechanical disabled users the limits and endurance. At the top intermediate landing along this path of travel, there is a landing that has a gate going into the pool area that is served by stairs with no handrails, nor the contrasting stripe on the nosing of each tread, limiting semiambulatory use as previously described. The gate swings out over the landing required at the top of the stairway, in This normal path of travel is not served violation of code. by a ramp, or wheelchair lift, as required by code, which means a wheelchair user is forced to gain entry into the pool area via a route that is multiple times longer than required of other patrons of the hotel.

uu) The bottom landing for the top ramp run is

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pie shaped, which provides zero landing on the south side of the ramp increasing to a compliant landing on the opposite ramp. However, for at least 70% of the ramp is not the 72 inch minimum length required by the code at a change in direction. This barrier requires the user to change directions in the middle of the ramp run without a level landing, and reducing

vv) The second ramp run has non-compliant cross-slopes within it, non-compliant handrails (similar to the first, supra), and a non-compliant bottom landing (also similar to the first), inhibiting access as previously described.

There is a second accessible entrance ww) between the bottom of the two ramp runs serving the pool. This entrance to the pool is served by stairs that have no contrasting stripe, have handrails that do not have the graspability dimension required by the code, and the level change is not served by a ramp or wheelchair lift as required These conditions mean the stairs a by the code. semi-ambulatory, and more difficult to traverse for the hazardous because the contrasting stripes are missing. the lack of a vertical means of access means the disabled user cannot use this entrance, and the length of the path of travel for the disabled user to reach the end point of this destination is effectively doubled.

xx) There are two ramp segments on the west side of the pool. The lower/shorter ramp segment has cross-slopes the 2% maximum permitted by code, and has handrails

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that do not provide the graspable surface required by code. These conditions limit access by wheelchair users as previously described.

yy) There is a gate on the intermediate landing that does not have a 10-inch high smooth and interrupted surface along the bottom edge of the gate that is required by the code. This deficiency makes opening the gate significantly harder for a wheelchair user.

zz) On information and belief, the pool itself has no compliant Title 24 lift, nor does the Jacuzzi.

aaa) The path of travel to the emergency shutoff for the Jacuzzi, and the operation timer is obstructed by furniture, which is not maintained to keep this floor space free and clear. The timer is a heavy spring-loaded control that requires grasping, pinching and twisting of the wrist to operate, which is in violation of code. These barriers diminish Plaintiff's ability to access and use the controls.

bbb) The path around the pool has significant cross-slopes in many areas, particularly around the drains, which makes traversing this area significantly more difficult for a wheelchair user, and additionally limiting their physical and mechanical endurance.

ccc) At the northeast corner of the pool there is a long flight of stairs to the lobby and bar patio area that do not have handrails on either side, or contrasting stripes, which makes this traversing these stairs hazardous for semi-ambulatory individuals. There additionally is no accessible route serving this normal path of travel, which

means a wheelchair user must go around the entire perimeter of the pool area to gain access to the lobby and bar from this access point.

ddd) In the southeast corner of the pool area, there is a narrow walkway that is approximately 40 inches wide, and has a slope that exceeds the 5% maximum slope permitted by code, unless is treated as a fully compliant ramp (which this path lacks elements for a ramp). This steep walkway has a length of approximately 75 feet, does not provide handrails or any other element of a compliant ramp, and the slope of the walkway goes through the pool gate in this location, all of which create a hazardous condition for individuals who use wheelchairs, and make this path of travel virtually inaccessible to them.

eee) In the grassy area on the east side of this pool courtyard, near the southeast corner of the pool courtyard, there is a trellised patio with a flagstone surface, which is located across the grass, and is thus not served by an accessible route that is stable, firm and slip resistant, meaning it cannot be reached at all by persons with disabilities using wheelchairs or other mobility assistive devices. In addition, there is a vertical rise at the edge of the concrete pad of approximately 4 inches creating a drop off condition, which is hazardous to wheelchair users.

fff) The guestrooms along the south side of the pool courtyard are served by a square stepping stone pathway between the patio of the rooms and the sidewalk to the pool. These approximately 24 inch stepping stones have grass between

them, and do not provide the accessible route along this normal paths of travel required by the code. Because the width of this path of travel is below the 36 inch minimum required by code, the concrete surface is interrupted by grass surface, which is not stable, firm and slip resistant, and there is vertical rises between the grass surface and the concrete surface of the stepping stones (at the gaps); none of these paths of travel are usable by an individual who uses a wheelchair or other mobility assistive device.

ggg) The entry at the southeast corner of the pool courtyard has slopes exterior on the exterior side that exceed the 2% maximum permitted by the code, have push pressures on the door that exceed the 5 lbs. maximum permitted by the code, has a landing on the exterior side of the door that does not extend 24 inches beyond the strike edge of the door, and does not extend 60 inches from the face of the closed door. These conditions make this entrance not readily accessible individuals who uses a wheelchair or other mobility assistive devices; it is significantly harder to use.

hhh) The exterior door to the fitness room has a landing on the exterior side that is not level as required by the code. The push pressure required to open the fitness entrance exceeds the 5 lbs. maximum permitted by code. The interior landing for the fitness entrance is below the 18 inch minimum for the strike side required by code. Each of these deficiencies makes it more difficult for wheelchair users to open and pass through this door.

iii) On the interior of the exercise room there

is a timer for the lights that requires grasping, pinching and twisting of the wrist, and is not located adjacent to the 30 X 48 inch clear ground floor space required by the code. This means this device may not be approached or used by persons with Plaintiff's disabilities.

jjj) Adjacent to the light switch is an emergency phone that is set higher than the maximum height permitted by the code, and is not adjacent to the 30 X 48 inch clear ground floor space required by the code, because this telephone and light switch are located on the wall behind a with fixed exercise ball base. trash can and an Consequently, wheelchair users cannot approach these devices, and the phone is mounted too high to be used by and individual in a wheelchair.

kkk) The only usable exercise equipment in this room are the weights in the southeast corner of the room, and that location has a path of travel to it that is obstructed by the other equipment in the room leaving an accessible route that is approximately 20 inches wide, which is below the 36 inch minimum width required by the code. This means persons with Plaintiff's disabilities cannot readily access the equipment.

Ill) The men's locker room does not have the Title 24 nor the ADA signage required on the exterior side of the door. This means the disabled user is not given the standard notification that this space is accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities.

mmm) The lock on the entry door requires

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grasping, pinching and twisting of the wrist, which dramatically increases the difficulty of locking and unlocking the door for individuals who have a physical limitation related to these actions, such as Plaintiff.

nnn) The sink is a pedestal type sink, which does not provide any of the kneespace that is required by the code, which means that a front approach to this sink is not possible, and an individual using a wheelchair is not able to use both hands simultaneously in the sink.

ooo) The height of the bottom edge of the reflective surface of the mirror is set above the 40 inch maximum height permitted by the code, meaning this amenity is not usable by a person in a seated position while grooming.

ppp) The toilet in the men's locker room is not mounted exactly 18 inches on center from the adjacent wall as required by the code, and has a seat height that is below the 17 inch minimum height that is required by the code, which makes the fixture more difficult and less safe from persons who must transfer from a wheelchair.

qqq) The entrance on the northwest corner of the building has a push pressure that exceeds the 5 lbs. maximum permitted by the code, a landing on the exterior side that exceeds the 2% maximum slope permitted by the code, has a landing that does not extend 60 inches measured perpendicular to the face of the closed door, and has a card key opening mechanism that has a clear floor space overlaps the door swing of the door. Each of these deficiencies makes the opening and getting through the door more difficult for a disabled

individual who uses a wheelchair or other mobility-assistive device, increases the hazard that individual will be struck by the door being opened while their attempting to unlock it, and requires the wheelchair user to unlock the door, move the wheelchair and attempt to open the door before the time permitted expires; which all otherwise limits the ability of the user to use the key lock and door, and dramatically increases the level of agility required to get through this entrance.

the building has a slope that exceeds 5% and is considered a ramp by the code. However, this walkway has no elements of a fully compliant ramp because it has a length of approximately 75 feet without a level landing, has a 90 degree change in direction without a level landing, has cross-slopes in excess of 2%, has no intermediate landings at all, and does not have a bottom landing that is level as required by the code. All of these deficiencies make traversing this length of sidewalk more difficult if not hazardous for people who use wheelchairs or other mobility assistive devices.

sss) The asphalt sidewalk along the west side of the building has slopes within it that exceed 5%, and cross slopes that exceed the 2% maximum, and no elements of a ramp have been provided. These deficiencies make this traversing this walkway physically demanding or hazardous than permitted by the code.

ttt) There is no accessible route connecting the northeast entrance to the sports and tennis courts. This

path of travel is interrupted by a curb without a curb-ramp being provided. Consequently, this route is impassable by wheelchair users.

unu) The tennis and sports courts lack a compliant accessible route from the hotel, i.e., that is free of sudden changes in level, and that does not require the user to proceed behind parked vehicles. The present conditions require Plaintiff to pick an unregulated path through the center of the parking lot and over a bumpy asphalt surface. These conditions expose Plaintiff to hazard and limit physical and mechanical endurance.

vvv) The tennis and sports courts each lack an accessible entrance. Currently, the two courts lack accessible strike side clearance on the pull side and level landings, he gates do not open to the full 90 degree position required by code, and the amount of push pressure required to operate these gates exceeds the 5 lbs. maximum permitted by code. These conditions make it difficult to impossible the disabled to open and go through these gated entrances.

www) The designated disabled accessible guestrooms are inaccessible to persons with Plaintiff's disabilities. The barriers encountered by Plaintiff include, but are no limited to:

- 1) The entry lacks the required strike edge clearance and landing, making it difficult for Plaintiff to open and go through the door.
- 2) The lock requires grasping, pinching and twisting of the wrist to operate.

- 3) The rooms lamps require grasping, pinching and twisting of the wrist to operate in violation of the code, inhibiting Plaintiff's ability to use the device.

 4) The guestroom's bathroom lacks the 60 inch turning diameter required by code, making it difficult to
- inch turning diameter required by code, making it difficult to impossible to turn, move among the amenities, and/or leave the room.
- 5) The roll-in shower is too small, has the wrong grab bar configuration, and its controls are located on the wrong side and too far from the bench, making it difficult to impossible for Plaintiff to safely enter and use the facility.
- 6) The bathroom's entry door lacks strike edge clearance and the required door landing on the pull side, making it difficult to impossible for Plaintiff to readily exit the bathroom.
- 7) The toilet lacks the required transfer space at the front and side, it's flush valve is on the narrow side instead of the wide-side position required by code, and the toilet seat is set too high, making it difficult to impossible for Plaintiff to use this facility.
- 8) The sink is set too low and does not provide the required knee space, which exposes Plaintiff to hazard, and makes it difficult to access the sink with both hand simultaneously.
- 9) The typical furniture placement on the patio obstructs the door swing, and the size of the landing and clear floor space, making it difficult or

impossible for Plaintiff to enter and use the patio.

accessible rooms and that are spread across the full range of amenities, including the suites. The hotel additionally fails to segregate provision of this obligation from other accessibility room obligations, as required by code, causing greater competition for the already limited room choices. As a result, the disabled wheelchair and semi-ambulatory users are not provided the full inventory and accommodation class categories to which they are entitled by code, and their opportunities are thus limited.

yyy) On information and belief, all standard non-designated rooms and suites at the hotel lack the minimum required access required by the Codes at the entrances and doors, and for the path of travel to reach all spaces and elements within the room. This makes it difficult to impossible for the wheelchair user to enter and use these guestrooms to the minimum level required by code.

- 15. Each of the foregoing barriers in the previous paragraph inhibit and thereby discriminate against Plaintiff's specific physical conditions, including, but not limited to, those described in paragraph 2. Each of these facilities, and others not listed, have not been fully inspected by Plaintiff's legal representatives, including those in paragraph 14, and will require the opportunity of a formal inspection, and the right to take photographs and measurements in order to confirm.
- 16. As a result of the actions and failure to act of Defendants, and each of them, and as a result of the failure to

provide appropriate disabled accessible questrooms and hotel amenities, Plaintiff suffered and will suffer a loss of his civil rights to full and equal access to public facilities, suffered strain and exhaustion from attempting to negotiate barriers as well as pain and discomfort, and will suffer emotional distress, mental distress, mental suffering, mental anguish, which includes that shame, humiliation, embarrassment, anger, chagrin, disappointment and worry, normally and naturally expected and associated with a person with a physical disability being denied access to a public accommodation, all to his prayed hereinafter in damages as an amount within the jurisdiction of this court.

- denied access at the hotel, or has been deterred from utilizing its facilities. Plaintiff would like to return and use the Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country on a planned or spontaneous basis, but is unable to enjoy the safe full and equal access to which he is entitled. The barriers to disabled access that deter his return are permanent physical barriers. For instance, the total absence of an accessible guestroom on the property and with full amenities available elsewhere in the hotel.
- 18. On information and belief, a number of facilities in the subject building have been remodeled during the statutory period since July 1, 1970, triggering accessible "path of travel" requirements to each area of alteration, which includes, but is not limited to, accessible public sanitary facilities and a path of travel, complying with ADA and Title 24 standards. On information and belief, Defendants have not complied with these

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legal obligations.

- 19. The "removal" of each of these barriers to use by disabled persons was "readily achievable" under the standards of Section 301(9) of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 [42 U.S.C. 12181] at all times herein relevant. Section 303 of the ADA [42 U.S.C. 12183] and California law also required the removal of all such barriers upon performance of "alterations."
- 20. On information and belief, Defendants continue to the present date to deny "full and equal access" to plaintiff and to all other disabled persons, in violation of California law, including Health & Safety Code Sections 19955 et seq., Civil Code Sections 54 and 54.1, and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (a.k.a. California Building Code). Further, such denial of access to disabled persons also violates the requirements of Title III of the federal Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, Sections 301 et seq. [42 U.S.C., \$\$ 12181 et seq.] (Hereinafter also called the "ADA").

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:

BREACH OF STATUTORY PROTECTIONS FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS

- 21. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 19, above.
- 22. Plaintiff is physically disabled under standards as defined by all California statutes using these terms. Plaintiff is also each an "individual with a disability" as defined by Section 54(b) Civil Code, as well as Section 3(2) of the ADA. Each violation of the ADA, as plead hereinafter, is incorporated

by reference as a separate violation of Sections 54(c) and 54.1(d) California Civil Code.

- 23. Health & Safety Code Section 19955 provides in pertinent part:
 - (a) The purpose of this part is to insure that public accommodations or facilities constructed in state with private funds adhere to this provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with § 4450) of Division 5 of Title 1 of the Government Code. the purposes of this part "public accommodation or facilities" means a building, structure, facility, complex, or improved area which is used by the general public and shall include auditoriums, hospitals, theaters, restaurants, hotels, motels, stadiums, and conventions centers.
- 24. Health and Safety Code Section 19956, which appears in the same chapter as 19955, provides, in pertinent part: "[a]ll public accommodations constructed in this state shall conform to the provisions of Chapter 7 (commencing with § 4450) of Division 5 of Title 1 of the Government Code...."
- 25. Section 19956 Health & Safety Code was operative July 1, 1970, and is applicable to all public accommodations constructed or altered after that date. On information and belief, portions of the subject Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country were constructed and/or altered after July 1, 1970, and portions of the subject building were structurally remodeled, altered and have undergone structural repairs or additions after July 1, 1970. Such construction required such building and its

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public accommodation facilities to be subject to the requirements of Part 5.5, Sections 19955, et seq., of the Health and Safety Code, which requires provision of access upon "alterations, structural repairs or additions" per Section 19959 Health & Safety Code, or upon a change of occupancy (a form of "alteration").

- 26. Pursuant to the authority delegated by Government Code Section 4450, et seq., State Architect promulgated the regulations for the enforcement of these provisions. Effective January 1, 1982, Title 24 of the California Administrative Code adopted the California State Architect's Regulations and these regulations must be complied with as to any modifications of the subject building and its facilities occurring after that date. Any alterations of the building after January 1, 1982 required compliance with the Title 24 regulations then in including that an accessible path of travel leading to such facility from the adjoining public right of way. Prior to 1982, similar requirements were incorporated into the law from the American Standards Association. On information and belief, one or more of the constructions of and alterations upon and modifications of the subject facilities occurred during the period of time that sections of the Health and Safety Code have provided that all buildings and facilities used by the public must conform to each of the standards and specifications described in the American Standards Association Specifications, or, as to construction occurring after January 1, 1982, to the standards of Title 24, the State Architect's Regulations.
 - 27. Plaintiff is informed and believes and therefore

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alleges that Defendants, and their predecessors in interest as operators and/or lessors of the subject owners, accommodation (for which the Defendants as current owners, operators and/or lessors of the building are responsible), and each of them caused the subject property to be constructed, altered and maintained in such a manner that physically disabled persons were denied full and equal access to, within and throughout said facilities, and full and equal use of said Further, on information and belief, Defendants and building. each of them have continued to maintain and operate such building and its facilities in such condition up to the present time, despite actual and constructive notice to such Defendants, and each of them (which includes Plaintiff's discussions with hotel personnel, such as Plaintiff. Such construction, modification, ownership, operation, maintenance and practices of such a public facility is in violation of law as stated in Part 5.5, Sections 19955ff Health and Safety Code, Sections 54 and 54.1, et seq., Civil Code, and elsewhere in the laws of California.

28. On information and belief, the subject building and the Defendants and each of them have denied full and equal access to disabled persons in other respects due to non-compliance with requirements of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and of other provisions of disabled access legal requirements. Additionally, maintaining the barriers specified in this complaint is independently a violation of both Title 24 of the California Building Code, and of Sections 54 and 54.1 Civil Code and their guarantee of "full and equal" access to all

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public facilities (as pled in the third cause of action, and also repleads and incorporated herein by reference, as if fully restated hereafter), in conjunction with Section 19955ff, per James Donald v. Cafe Royalé (1990) 218 Cal.App.3d 168.

- 29. Injunctive Relief -The acts and Defendants as complained of continue to have the effect of allowing Defendants to wrongfully exclude Plaintiff, and other similarly situated members of the public who are physically disabled, from full and equal access to the subject Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country. Such acts and omissions are the continuing cause of humiliation and mental suffering to Plaintiff and other similarly situated persons in that these actions treat them as inferior and second class citizens and serve to discriminate against them, so long as Defendants do not provide a properly accessible, safe and equal use of such facilities. Said acts have proximately caused and will continue to cause irreparable injury to Plaintiff and other similarly situated persons if not enjoined by this court.
- 30. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief, pursuant to Section 19953 Health and Safety Code and Section 55 Civil Code, prohibiting those of the Defendants that currently own, operate, and/or lease (from or to) the subject Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, from maintaining architectural barriers to the use by disabled persons of public accommodations and facilities, in violation of Part 5.5, Sections 19955ff Health and Safety Code. Plaintiff seeks to require such Defendants to create safe and properly accessible facilities.
 - 31. Attorneys' Fees As a result of Defendants' acts and

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omissions in this regard, Plaintiff has been required to incur legal expenses and hire attorneys in order to enforce Plaintiff's rights and those of other similarly situated persons, and to enforce provisions of the law protecting access for the disabled, and prohibiting discrimination against the disabled, and to take such action both in his own interest and in order to enforce an important right affecting the public interest. Plaintiff therefore seeks recovery of all reasonable fees, litigation expenses and costs incurred, attorneys' pursuant to the provisions of Section 1021.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff additionally seeks an award of reasonable statutory attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Section 19953 Health and Safety Code.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as hereinafter stated.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION:

VIOLATION OF DISABLED RIGHTS ACT, CIVIL CODE \$\S\$ 54, 54.1, 54.3 ET SEQ.

DENIAL OF FULL AND EQUAL ACCESS TO A PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSON

- 32. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 31, above.
- 33. At all times relevant to this action, California Civil Code Sections 54 and 54.1 have provided that physically disabled persons are not to be discriminated against because of physical handicap or disability. Section 54 Civil Code provides:

Individuals with disabilities shall have the same

right as the general public to the full and free use of the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and physicians' offices, public facilities, and other public places.

Section 54.1 Civil Code provides that:

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- (a)(1) Individuals with disabilities shall entitled to full and equal access, as other members of the general public, to accommodations, advantages, facilities, medical facilities... and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles... or public conveyances modes of any other or transportation... hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation and amusement or resort, and other places to which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions or limitations established by law, or state or federal regulations, and applicable alike to all other persons.
- 34. California Civil Code Section 54.3 provides that any person or corporation who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public facilities as specified in Section 54 and 54.1 Civil Code is liable for EACH such offense for the actual damages and any amount up to a maximum of three times the amount of actual damages but in no case less than \$1,000 and such attorneys' fees that may be determined by the Court in addition thereto, suffered by any person denied any of the rights provided in Sections 54 and 54.1, for services necessary to enforce those rights.

35. As a result of the actions and failure to act of Defendants, and each of them, and as a result of the failure to provide appropriate disabled accessible guestrooms and hotel amenities, Plaintiff suffered and will suffer a loss of his civil rights to full and equal access facilities, suffered strain and exhaustion from attempting to negotiate barriers as well as pain and discomfort, and will suffer emotional distress, mental distress, mental suffering, mental anguish, which includes that shame, humiliation, embarrassment, anger, chagrin, disappointment normally and naturally expected and associated with a person with a physical disability being denied access to a public accommodation, all to their damages as prayed hereinafter in an amount within the jurisdiction of this court.

36. Plaintiff is a person within the meaning of Civil Code Sections 54 and 54.1 whose rights have been infringed upon and violated by the Defendants. Plaintiff has been denied full and equal access during the period within two years before the filing of the complaint, and on each specific date of potential use in which full and equal access to such facility was denied or deterred. On information and belief, Defendants have failed to act to provide full and equal public access to their subject hotel, and continue to operate in violation of the law and continue to discriminate against physically disabled persons by failing to allow access to their building, and make reasonable modifications in policy respecting servicing the disabled who cannot enter or use facilities on a full and equal basis.

37. At all times relevant, Defendants were on notice of

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the requirements of the law relating to provision for full and equal disabled access. Especially as Defendants were on full each date that Plaintiff's visits the area that notice. Defendants have continued to deny access to disabled persons constitutes a new and distinct violation of each Plaintiff's right to full and equal access to this public facility, violation of Sections 54 and 54.1, et seq. Civil Code. event of a default judgment against any particular defendant, each Plaintiff will seek an injunction requiring provision of access to all facilities listed in paragraph 4, etc. (all as identified in paragraphs 14 through Error! Reference source not found., above), plus damages of \$4,000 damages per incident of denial and/or deterrence, plus reasonable attorneys' litigation expenses and costs as set by the court, until it is brought into full compliance with state and federal access laws protecting the rights of the disabled.

38. Plaintiff has been damaged by Defendants' wrongful conduct and seek the relief that is afforded by Sections 54.1, 54.3 and 55 of the Civil Code. Each Plaintiff seeks actual damages, and statutory and treble damages against Defendants for all periods of time mentioned herein. As to those of the Defendants that currently own, operate, and/or lease (from or to) the subject hotel, Plaintiff seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to enjoin and eliminate the discriminatory practices and barriers that deny equal access for disabled persons, and for reasonable attorneys' fees.

39. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff asks this Court to enjoin any continuing refusal by the Defendants that currently own,

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operate, and or lease (from or to) the subject Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, to grant such access to Plaintiff and other similarly situated disabled persons, or alternatively to enjoin operation of the subject Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country as a public accommodation until such Defendants comply with all applicable statutory requirements relating to access to physically disabled persons, and that the Court award Plaintiff his counsel's reasonable statutory attorneys' fees, litigation expenses and costs pursuant to Civil Code Section 55, Code of Civil Procedure Section 1021.5, and Health & Safety Code Section 19953, and as further prayed for herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for damages and injunctive relief as hereinafter stated.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION:

VIOLATIONS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 42 USC §§ 12101ff

- 40. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates, as if fully set forth again herein, the factual allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 39, above.
- 41. Pursuant to law, in 1990 the United States Congress made findings per 42 U.S.C. Section 12101 regarding physically disabled persons, finding that laws were needed to more fully protect "some 43 million Americans with one or more physical or mental disabilities;" that "historically society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities;" that "such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem;" that

"the Nation's proper goals regarding individuals with disabilities are to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self sufficiency for such individuals;" and that "the continuing existence of unfair and unnecessary discrimination and prejudice denies people with disabilities the opportunity to compete on an equal basis and to pursue those opportunities for which our free society is justifiably famous..." 42. Congress stated as its purpose in passing the

Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC § 12101(b)):

It is the purpose of this act -

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- (1) to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities;
- (2) to provide clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities;
- (3) to ensure that the Federal government plays a central role in enforcing the standards established in this act on behalf of individuals with disabilities; and
- (4)invoke the sweep of Congressional authority, including the power to enforce the 14th Amendment and to regulate commerce, in order to address the major areas of discrimination faced day to day by people with disabilities. (Emphasis added)
- 43. As part of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336, (hereinafter the "ADA"), Congress passed "Title III

- Public Accommodations and Services Operated by Private Entities" (42 U.S.C 12181ff). Among "private entities" which are considered "public accommodations" for purposes of this title are identified as "an inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging," and "a restaurant, bar or other establishment serving food or drink," and "an auditorium, convention center, lecture hall, or other place of public gathering." (§\$ 301(7), (A)-(B), and (D) [42 U.S.C. 12181].)

- 44. Pursuant to Section 302 [42 U.S.C 12182], "[n]o individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases, or leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation."
- 45. Among the general prohibitions of discrimination included in Section 302(b)(1)(A) are the following:

§ 302(b)(1)(A)(i): "DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION. —
It shall be discriminatory to subject an individual or class of individuals on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, to a denial of the opportunity of the individual or class to participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of an entity."

§ 302(b)(1)(A)(ii): "PARTICIPATION IN UNEQUAL BENEFIT - It shall be discriminatory to afford an

individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals."

\$ 302(b)(1)(A)(iii): "SEPARATE BENEFIT. — It shall be discriminatory to provide an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is different or separate from that provided to other individuals, unless such action is necessary to provide the individual or class of individuals with a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation, or other opportunity that is as effective as that provided to others."

46. Among the specific prohibitions against discrimination in the ADA include the following:

§ 302(b)(2)(A)(ii): "A failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities..."

§ 302(b)(2)(A)(iii): "A failure to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that no individual

with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services, unless the entity can demonstrate that taking such steps would fundamentally alter the nature of the good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation being offered or would result in an undue burden;"

§ 302(b)(2)(A)(iv): "A failure to remove architectural barriers, and communication barriers that are structural in nature, in existing facilities... where such readily removal is achievable;"

§ 302(b)(2)(A)(v): "Where entity can demonstrate that the removal of a barrier under clause (iv) is not readily achievable, a failure to make such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, accommodations available through alternative methods if such methods are readily achievable." acts and omissions of Defendants set forth herein were in violation of Plaintiff's rights under the ADA, Public Law 101-336, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 28 CFR Part 36ff.

- 47. The removal of <u>each</u> of the barriers complained of by plaintiff as hereinabove alleged were at all times on or after January 26, 1992 "readily achievable."
- 48. Further, at all times herein mentioned, modification of or removal of these barriers was "readily achievable" under

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the factors specified in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including but not limited to section 301(9) [42 U.S.C. 12181], and the Regulations adopted thereto.

- 49. Further, if Defendants are collectively able to "demonstrate" that it was not "readily achievable" for Defendants to remove each of such barriers, Defendants have failed to make the required services available through alternative methods which were readily achievable, as required by Section 302 of the ADA [42 U.S.C. 12182].
- 50. "Discrimination" is further defined under Section 303(a)(2) of the ADA, for a facility or part thereof that was altered after the effective date of Section 303 of the ADA in such a manner as to affect or that could affect the usability of the facility or part thereof by persons with disabilities, to include per Section 303(a)(2) [42 U.S.C. 12183], "a failure to make alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum extent feasible, the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs." Additionally, for alterations to areas of a facility involving a "primary function," discrimination under the ADA, per Section 303(a)(2) (42 U.S.C. 12183), also includes the failure of an entity "to make the alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area, are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities." On information and belief, the subject building constitutes a "commercial facility,"

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Defendants have, since the date of enactment of the ADA, performed alterations (including alterations to areas of primary function) to the subject building and its facilities, public accommodations, and commercial facilities, which fail to provide facilities and paths of travel to such areas that are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, in violation of Section 303(a)(2), and the regulations promulgated thereunder, 28 CFR Part 36ff.

51. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, USC 12188ff, Section 308, Plaintiff is entitled to the remedies and procedures set forth in Section 204, subsection (a), of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000a-3, at subsection (a)), as Plaintiff is being subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability in violation of this title or has reasonable grounds for believing that they is about to be subjected discrimination in violation of Sections 302 On information and belief, Defendants continue to violate the law and deny the rights of Plaintiff and of other disabled persons to access this public accommodation. to Section 308(a)(2), "[i]n cases of violations of Section 302(b)(2)(A)(iv)... injunctive relief shall include an order to alter facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by this title."

52. As a result of Defendants' acts and omissions in this regard, Plaintiff has been required to incur legal expenses and attorney fees, as provided by statute, in order to enforce his rights and to enforce provisions of the law protecting

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access for disabled persons and prohibiting discrimination against disabled persons. Plaintiff therefore seeks recovery of all reasonable attorneys' fees, litigation expenses (including expert fees) and costs, pursuant to the provisions of Section 505 of the ADA (42 U.S.C. 12205) and the Department of Justice's regulations for enforcement of Title III of the ADA (28 CFR 36.505). Additionally, Plaintiff's lawsuit is intended not only to obtain compensation for damages to Plaintiff, but also to require the Defendants to make their facilities accessible to all disabled members of the public, justifying "public interest" attorneys' fees pursuant to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1021.5.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that this Court grant relief as hereinafter stated:

14.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF UNDER THE DISABLED RIGHTS ACT FOR VIOLATION OF TITLE III OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

- 53. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 52 of this complaint.
- 54. Each violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, as complained of in the Third Causes of Action hereinabove (the contents of which causes of action have been incorporated herein as if separately restated word for word hereafter), is also a violation of section 54(c) and section 54.1(d) California Civil Code, further and independently justifying damages, injunctive relief, and other statutory

relief per sections 54.3 and 55 California Civil Code, all as previously pled.

55. As a result of Defendants' acts and omissions this regard, Plaintiff has been required to incur legal expenses and attorney fees, as provided by statute, in order to enforce his rights and to enforce provisions of the law protecting access for disabled persons and prohibiting discrimination against disabled persons. Plaintiff therefore seeks recovery of all reasonable attorneys' fees, litigation expenses (including expert fees) and costs, pursuant to the provisions of Section 55 of the Civil Code. Additionally, Plaintiff's lawsuit intended not only to obtain compensation for damages Plaintiff, but also to require the Defendants to make their facilities accessible to all disabled members of the public, justifying "public interest" attorneys' fees pursuant to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1021.5.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for damages and injunctive relief as hereinafter stated.

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FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF UNDER THE UNRUH CIVIL RIGHTS ACT FOR VIOLATION OF TITLE III OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

- 56. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 55 of this complaint.
- 57. Each violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, as complained of in the Third Causes of Action hereinabove (the contents of which causes of action have been

incorporated herein as if separately repled), is also a violation of section 51(f) of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, further and independently justifying damages of \$4,000 per offense, injunctive relief, and other statutory relief per Section 52 and common law decision.

58. As a result of Defendants' acts and omissions in this regard, Plaintiff has been required to incur legal expenses and attorney fees, as provided by statute, in order to enforce his rights and to enforce provisions of the law protecting access for disabled persons and prohibiting discrimination against disabled persons. Plaintiff therefore seeks recovery of all reasonable attorneys' fees, litigation expenses (including expert fees) and costs, pursuant to the provisions of Section 55 of the Civil Code. Additionally, Plaintiff's lawsuit is intended not only to obtain compensation for damages to Plaintiff, but also to require the Defendants to make their facilities accessible to all disabled members of the public, justifying "public interest" attorneys' fees pursuant to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1021.5.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for damages and injunctive relief as hereinafter stated.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

VIOLATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 17200 UNFAIR COMPETITION THROUGH VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA AND STATE LAW PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF DISABLED PERSONS

59. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the factual allegations

contained in paragraphs 1 through 58 of this complaint.

- 60. On a yearly basis, the Defendants are engaged in the business of providing hotel services and facilities at the Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country throughout the year.
- 61. Plaintiff have incurred actual injury and is out of pocket for the experience. Defendants' unfair practice lures unsuspecting disabled customers such as Plaintiff to book rooms at the hotel, who expect to be able to rent an accessible room. Because of the advance planning required to find an accessible hotel, Defendants representations place Plaintiff in untenable position only after its too late. Only upon arrival and obligation (and the incurrence of great inconvenience) do they learn that Defendants falsely advertise the "accessibility" of their rooms.
- 62. In this respect, Defendants also compete unfairly and otherwise reduce the inventory and opportunity of disabled accessible room available to Plaintiff and other persons similarly situated.
- 63. Commencing within three years of the date of the original complaint filed in this action, the Defendants have committed acts of unfair competition, as defined by Business and Professions Code section 17200, by providing facilities that are inaccessible to the disabled members of the general public, including, but not limited to the acts facilities beginning at paragraph 14, above, all in violation of standards of sections 54 and 54.1 et seq. Civil Code; Title 24 of the California Administrative Code; sections 4450-4456 Government Code; sections 19952, 19953 and 19955-19959 Health & Safety Code;

Title III of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; and the Americans With Disabilities Act Access Guidelines.

- 64. The acts and practices of the Defendants are likely to continue and therefore will continue to mislead the general public as to the true cost of providing the specified goods and services and their expected availability to members of the public with physical disabilities pursuant to law.
- 65. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conduct, Defendants have received and continue to receive unfair profits that rightfully belong to members of general public who have been adversely affected by Defendants' conduct, such as plaintiff.
- 66. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law, and unless the relief requested herein is granted, plaintiff will suffer irreparable harm in that Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country will continue to be discriminated against and denied access to the specified public facilities. Because Plaintiff seeks improvement of access for persons with disabilities, which will benefit a significant portion of the public, Plaintiff seeks recovery of reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to sections 52, 54.3 and 55 Civil Code, section 1021.5 Code of Civil Procedure, section 19953 Health & Safety Code, and section 505 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays that the court grant relief as requested herein below.

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SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 12948

- 67. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the factual allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 66 of this complaint.
- 68. Defendants' actions are in violation of Government Code Section 12948, and the corresponding Civil Code Sections 51, 54, and 54.1.
- 69. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief, statutory and compensatory damages, punitive damages, and attorneys fees under the FEHA.

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays that the court grant relief as requested herein below.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

NEGLIGENCE PER SE IN INJURING PLAINTIFF DUE TO VIOLATIONS OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW PROTECTING THE DISABLED, AND COMPLETE INDIFFERENCE TO THE CERTAIN RESULT

- 70. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the factual allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 69 of this complaint.
- 71. Defendants' actions, as previously pled, constitute negligence per se, as they constitute violations of state and federal laws protecting the rights and safety of disabled persons such as Plaintiff.
- 72. Further, any violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (as pled in the Third Cause of Action hereinabove, the contents of which are repled and incorporated

herein, word for word, as if separately restated hereafter), also constitutes a violation of Section 54(c) and Section 54.1(d) California Civil Code, thus independently justifying an award of damages and injunctive relief pursuant to California law on this basis, including but not limited to Civil Code Sections 54.3 and 55.

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays that the court grant relief as requested herein below.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

(Declaratory Relief)

- 73. Plaintiff repleads and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth again herein, the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 72 of this complaint and incorporates them herein as if separately repled.
- 74. A present and actual controversy exists among the respective rights and obligations of Plaintiff and Defendants, and separately, as to the obligations that have been impressed by the aforementioned statutes against the hotel property irrespective of past or future ownership. Plaintiff requests a judicial determination of his rights and such obligations in a declaration, and also as to whether and to what extent Defendants' conduct and the current configuration of the property violates applicable law.
- 75. Such a declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time in order that Plaintiff may ascertain his rights. Such declaration is further necessary and appropriate to prevent further harm or infringement of Plaintiff's Civil Rights.

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays the court grant relief as requested hereinbelow.

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PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for an award and relief as follows:

1. That the building and grounds currently comprising the Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country be declared a public nuisance and ordered closed, and/or not be allowed to be reopened, and that those of the Defendants that currently own, operate, and or lease (from or to) the subject building and grounds currently comprising the Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country and its facilities be preliminarily and permanently enjoined from operating and maintaining these public facilities as any public accommodation or commercial facility, i.e., so long as disabled persons are not provided full and equal access to the accommodations and facilities, in violation of provided by Sections 54, 54.1, and 55 et seq., of the Civil Code, Sections 19955 et seq. Health & Safety Code, Sections 4450, et seq. Government Code, the American Standard Specifications (A117.1961), or such other standards, including those of the State Architect's Regulations for Handicapped Access, as found in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations or other currently required by that regulations as are law; and Defendants be ordered to come into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including an order that those of the Defendants that currently own, operate, and/or lease (from or to) the building and grounds currently comprising the subject

Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, <u>inter alia</u>, "alter the subject facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities," and institute reasonable modifications in policies and practices, per Section 308 of Public Law 101-336 (the ADA);

- 2. General, compensatory, and statutory damages, and all damages as afforded by Civil Code Sections 54.3, including treble damages, for each violation and each date of use or deterrence, according to proof.
- 3. General, compensatory, and statutory damages, and all damages as afforded by Civil Code Sections 52, including treble damages, for each violation and each date on which Defendants have denied to Plaintiff equal access for the disabled under Title III of the ADA, according to proof.
- 4. During the pendency of this action, a preliminary injunction issue pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203 to enjoin and restrain Defendants from the acts of unfair competition set forth above;
- 5. A permanent injunction pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203 restraining and enjoining the Defendants from continuing the acts of unfair competition set forth above;
- 6. Attorney's fees, litigation expenses and costs pursuant to Sections 54.3 and 55 of the Civil Code, Section 19953 Health & Safety Code, Section 1021.5 Code of Civil Procedure, Section 505 of the ADA, and California's UCL;
- 7. Punitive damages pursuant to Section 3294 Civil Code (Re: Seventh and Eighth Causes of Action);

For all costs of suit; 8. 1 Prejudgment interest pursuant to Section 3291 of 9. 2 the Civil Code; 3 Such other and further relief as the Court deems 4 just and proper. 5 6 Dated: January 21, 2011 THIMESCH LAW OFFICES 7 TIMOTHY S. THIMESCH 8 9 10 Attorneys for Plaintiff ED MUEGGE 11 12 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 13 Plaintiff hereby demands a jury for all claims for 14 which a jury is permitted. 15 16 17 Dated: January 21, 2011 18 By: TIMOTHY S. THIMESCH Attorneys for Plaintiff 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28